

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

*Published by the Information Department
of THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL*



509 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y. TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 7-4766

VOL. II, # 19

November 21, 1949

COMPOSITION OF THE NEW AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. On November 8, Federal President Dr. Karl Renner reappointed Dr. Leopold Figl the Federal Chancellor of Austria. On the same day, President Renner approved the following list of cabinet members submitted by the newly-appointed Chancellor: Dr. Adolf Schaerf (Socialist party), Deputy Chancellor; Dr. Karl Gruber (People's party), Minister of Foreign Affairs; Oskar Helmer (Socialist party), Minister of the Interior; Dr. Otto Tschadek (Socialist party), Minister of Justice; Dr. Felix Hurdes (People's party), Minister of Education; Karl Maisel (Socialist party), Minister of Social Welfare; Dr. Eugen Margaretha (People's party), Minister of Finance; Josef Kraus (People's party), Minister of Agriculture and Forestry; Dr. Ernst Kolb (People's party), Minister of Trade and Reconstruction; Ing. Karl Waldbrunner (Socialist party), Minister of Communications and Nationalized Industries; Ferdinand Graf (People's party), Secretary of State in the Ministry of the Interior; Vinzenz Uebeleis (Socialist party), Secretary of State in the Ministry of Communications and Nationalized Industries.

The second Figl cabinet, which can count on the parliamentary support of 144 People's party and Socialist deputies, out of a total of 165 includes 7 members of the People's party and 6 Socialists. The first Figl government had been composed of 8 People's party representatives, 7 Socialists and 2 members without party affiliation. The following are no longer members of the Austrian government: Dr. Josef Geroe (non-party), Minister of Justice; Dr. Georg Zimmermann (non-party), Minister of Finance; Otto Sagmeister (Socialist), Minister of Food; Dr. Peter Krauland (People's party), Minister of Property Custody and Economic Planning; Dr. Alfred Migsch (Socialist), Minister of Fuel and Electric Power; Erwin Altenburger (People's party), Minister without Portfolio in the Federal Chancellery; and Karl Mantler (Socialist), Secretary of State in the Ministry of Property Custody and Economic Planning. The former Minister of Communications, Vinzenz Uebeleis (Socialist), remains in the Ministry of Communications as Secretary of State.

The new members of the second Figl government are: Dr. Eugen Margaretha (People's party), Minister of Finance; Dr. Otto Tschadek (Socialist party), Minister of Justice; and Ing. Karl Waldbrunner (Socialist party), Minister of Communications and Nationalized Industries. By eliminating the following ministries and secretariats of state, the new government has anticipated the demands for reforming the executive branch of government: The Ministry and Secretariat of State of Property Custody and Economic Planning, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Food and the post of a Minister without Portfolio in the Federal Chancellery. The functions of the former Ministry of Food have been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. As a result of the expiration of certain control legislation, the remaining functions of this ministry will be taken over by a Commission composed of representatives of the three Chambers (Commerce, Agriculture and Labor) and the Federation of Labor, under the chairmanship of a high official. The functions of the Ministry of Fuel and Electric Power will be transferred to the newly-created Ministry of Communications and Nationalized Industries. The "Creditanstalt", the "Laenderbank" and the "Hypotheken- und Credit-Institut" will henceforth be under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, which will also be responsible for the federal monopolies and state enterprises, with the exception of the Federal Railroads and the Post and Telegraph Administration. These will become part of the Ministry of Communications, although the Federal Railroads will be administered by a separate Secretariat of State, under the direction of the former Minister of Communications. A commission, composed of 3 representatives of both coalition parties and meeting at least once a month under the chairmanship of the minister, will be established in the Ministry of Communications and in the Ministry of Finance. Under the reorganization of the government, the Federal Chancellery is now made responsible for all matters relating to the

11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-2

Marshall Plan and, if need be, will also handle preparations for a federal army. Economic planning will no longer emanate from a central authority, although each individual ministry will prepare such plans for the future as they may become necessary.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON NEW MEMBERS OF AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

DR. EUGEN MARGARETHA (People's party) - MINISTER OF FINANCE.

Dr. Margaretha was born in Perchtoldsdorf, near Vienna, on July 6, 1895. He went to high school in Vienna and graduated from the University of Vienna with the degree of Doctor of Laws. Later he was active in industrial labor organizations and participated in World War I as a reserve officer. For twenty years thereafter (1918 to 1938), Dr. Margaretha was an official, and finally manager, of the Vienna Association of Industrialists. During this period he made a name for himself in the fields of collective bargaining, social security and worker's health insurance. He was immediately dismissed from his position after the Nazis took over in 1938.

Since 1945, Dr. Margaretha was Secretary of the Industrial Division of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, and after the 1945 general elections, he became a Deputy and the spokesman of Austrian industry in Parliament.

He was appointed Federal Minister of Finance after the October 1949 elections.

DR. OTTO TSCHADEK (Socialist party) - MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

Dr. Tschadek was born in Lower Austria on October 31, 1904. He attended high school and university, graduating as a Doctor of Laws. From 1927 to 1931, he was a Socialist student leader. After obtaining his degree, he became a practicing attorney. From 1940 to 1945, while in the German Navy, he was active as a resistance leader in Kiel (Germany). After the occupation of that city by the Allies, he was appointed Lord Mayor of Kiel (1945-1946). He then returned to Austria and established a law practice in Bruck-an-der-Leitha. Following the November 1945 elections he became a member of Parliament.

Dr. Tschadek was appointed Federal Minister of Justice after the October 1949 elections.

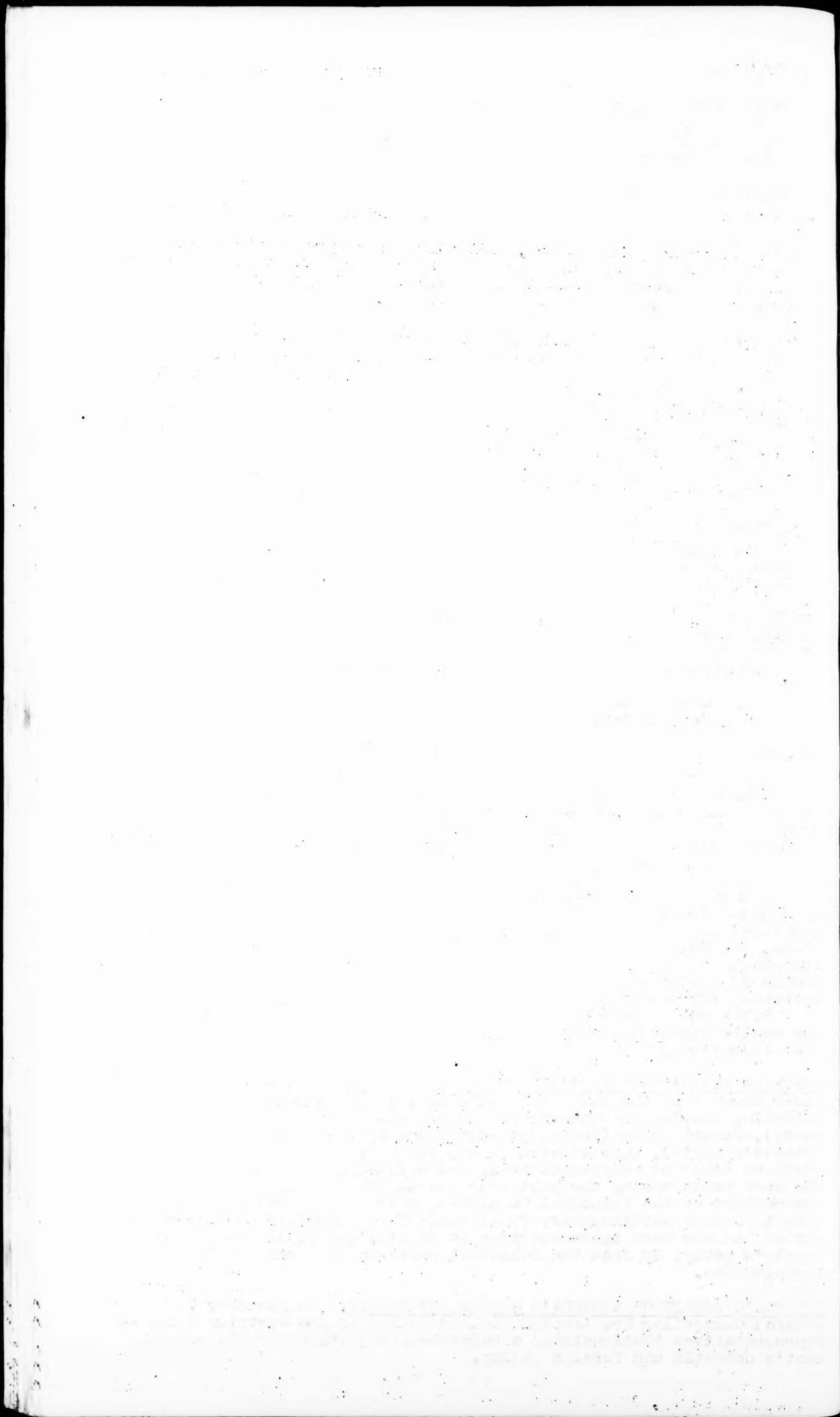
MR. KARL WALDBRUNNER (Socialist party) - MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES.

Mr. Waldbrunner was born in Vienna on November 25, 1906. He went to high school in Vienna and graduated as an electrical engineer from that city's Institute of Technology. After many years of work abroad, he joined the Schoeller-Bleckmann steel works in Ternitz. When the Nazis annexed Austria, Mr. Waldbrunner was repeatedly arrested and persecuted by the Gestapo. In the closing months of the war, he became the leader of the resistance movement in Ternitz. Following the liberation in April 1945, he was appointed undersecretary of state in the Provisional Austrian Government and, after the November 1945 elections, Secretary in the Ministry of Property Custody and Economic Planning. In May 1946, he was sent to Moscow, where he spent seven months as Austria's Minister to Russia. Upon his return, he became Secretary for economic affairs in the Socialist party.

After the October 1949 elections, he was appointed Minister of the newly-established Federal Ministry of Communications and Nationalized Industries.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT MEETS IN CONSTITUTING SESSION. The newly-elected Lower Chamber of the Austrian Parliament, (Nationalrat) held its constituting session on November 8. Deputies Leopold Kunschak (People's party), Johann Boehm (Socialist party) and Dr. Alphons Gorbach (People's party), were elected first, second and third Speaker of the Austrian House of Representatives, respectively. All three had held the same posts during the past four years. The session also elected the members of the Principal Committee, which is generally entrusted with important parliamentary functions. The membership of this committee has now been increased from 18 to 24 members: 12 from the People's party, 10 from the Socialist party and 2 from the Union of Independents.

THE BASIC TENETS OF AUSTRIA'S GOVERNMENT POLICY. On November 9, Federal Chancellor Dr. Leopold Figl presented to the Austrian House of Representatives (Nationalrat) a comprehensive outline of his government's domestic and foreign policy.



11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-3

Mr. Figl began his address to the legislative assembly by thanking the Allies for their liberation of the country and for the extensive aid they had extended to it. But he also expressed deep disappointment over the continuing four-power occupation and pointed out that this was in flagrant contradiction with the internationally recognized principle of human rights. Austria's democratic will was strong enough to foil the attempts of those political groups which would wish to abuse democratic freedoms to introduce dictatorial forms of government. During the past few years, everything had been done to secure social harmony within the country's borders, thereby creating a foundation for order and peace on the European continent. "We therefore believe," Mr. Figl continued, "that we are finally entitled to be released from any tutelage by other powers and to run our lives solely in accordance with the wishes of the Austrian people, as expressed by their duly elected representatives and government." Moreover, Austria had repeatedly declared its readiness to be accepted into the ranks of the United Nations on an equal footing with other members. Austria would take an active part in the deliberations of the Council of Europe, whose work she considered to be of special importance. Her foreign policy would always adhere to the principles of complete sovereignty, without in any way speculating on the differences between political blocs and without favoring any one foreign power.

Turning to economic matters, Chancellor Figl said that his government would pursue the same policy which had produced such encouraging results in the field of reconstruction during the past two years. One of the most pressing problems was the institution of extensive administrative and tax reforms, which would lead to economy in government and simplification in the tax laws.

His new government would also be faced with the task of analyzing the effects created by currency devaluations in various countries and of reaching a quick decision on this question, because further delay would be very detrimental to Austria's economy. Foreign trade would also have to be increased sharply by lifting all but the most essential restrictions. Finally, modernization of tourist facilities, expansion of the highway system and fuller exploitation of water power were measures of absolute necessity in counteracting the country's passive foreign trade balance.

Referring to his government's social policy, Chancellor Figl stated that economic security through full employment would be a primary goal. Unjustified price increases would have to be opposed just as strongly as the abuses of the cartels. Such measures as would tend to assure labor of secure employment and of participation in the fruits of production, through the establishment of industrial and labor cooperatives, wherever practicable, were important demands of the future. Housing requirements would have to be met by increased allocations from the fund for the reconstruction of homes. In the field of agriculture, an incentive to greater production should be provided by a sound land reform and advanced techniques of soil improvement. "But one cannot speak of economic reconstruction," Mr. Figl continued, "without mentioning the Marshall Plan, which is without parallel in the history of world economy. I consider it my duty to express once more our gratitude for this practical and effective aid. But we, in turn, must gear our entire economy to greater and more intense productivity, so as to make it possible for us to compete in the world's markets, when the Marshall Plan ends."

With regard to education, the Austrian Chancellor said that new legislation would have to be enacted to take into account the basic principles of moral and religious education.

The establishment of a federal army following completion of the State Treaty was no longer a matter of dispute. In a country surrounded by states with unusually large standing armies, which were adopting the latest technical and chemical innovations in what amounted to an armament psychosis, it would indeed be a crime to leave one's own people and one's own country exposed to possible danger unprotected.

In closing, Chancellor Figl called upon all Austrians to continue their collective efforts on behalf of their country's reconstruction.

In the debate that followed, Communist deputy Koplenig spoke against the Marshall Plan. Socialist deputy Dr. Pittermann declared that his party would oppose any policy of uncontrolled laissez-faire in matters of political economy. On the question of foreign policy, he stated that Austria had a legal right to freedom on the strength of Allied promises, and that she was entitled to become what she had

11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-4

always been: a center of European culture. "We protest against her degradation to the level of a European peripheral community," he exclaimed.

Dr. Herbert Kraus, chairman of the Union of Independents, assured the "Nationalrat" that his party wanted to pursue a policy of constructive opposition and not of obstructionism. He also demanded that the problem of former Nazis be solved, although he rejected the accusation that his party was neo-Nazi and stood for racial discrimination and pan-Germanism. His party's aim was to overcome the typical problems of the post-war era and to restore normal peacetime conditions.

Deputy Raab, speaking for the People's party, expressed complete approval of Chancellor Figl's policy statement.

STATE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK. After an interval of over a week the deputies for the Austrian State Treaty resumed their deliberations at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York on November 9th. This recession made it possible for the delegations to refer to their governments for further instructions on the still unagreed items of the draft treaty with a view to bring about a final settlement. Actually, agreement was reached on a number of technical details since the resumption of the negotiations.

DR. GRUBER SEES ECA ADMINISTRATOR HOFFMAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SCHUMAN IN PARIS. Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber was in Paris at the beginning of November to attend the conferences of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation. During his stay in the French capital, Dr. Gruber had a one-hour conference with ECA Administrator Paul Hoffman and another with French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman. The two statesmen are thought to have discussed the Austrian State Treaty.

SOCIALIST PARTY CONVENTION IN VIENNA. On November 2 and 3, the Austrian Socialist party held its national convention in Vienna to decide whether it would participate in the new government. A resolution of the executive committee, embodying the party's proposed policy and its major goals for the immediate future, was adopted almost unanimously; there were only 2 dissenting votes. The resolution proclaimed the right of continued Socialist participation in the government and representation of labor's interests in the executive branch. The party's immediate goals, as described in the resolution, are the fight against cartels and high prices, efforts to obtain a state treaty and the defense of democracy against any resurgence of fascist tendencies.

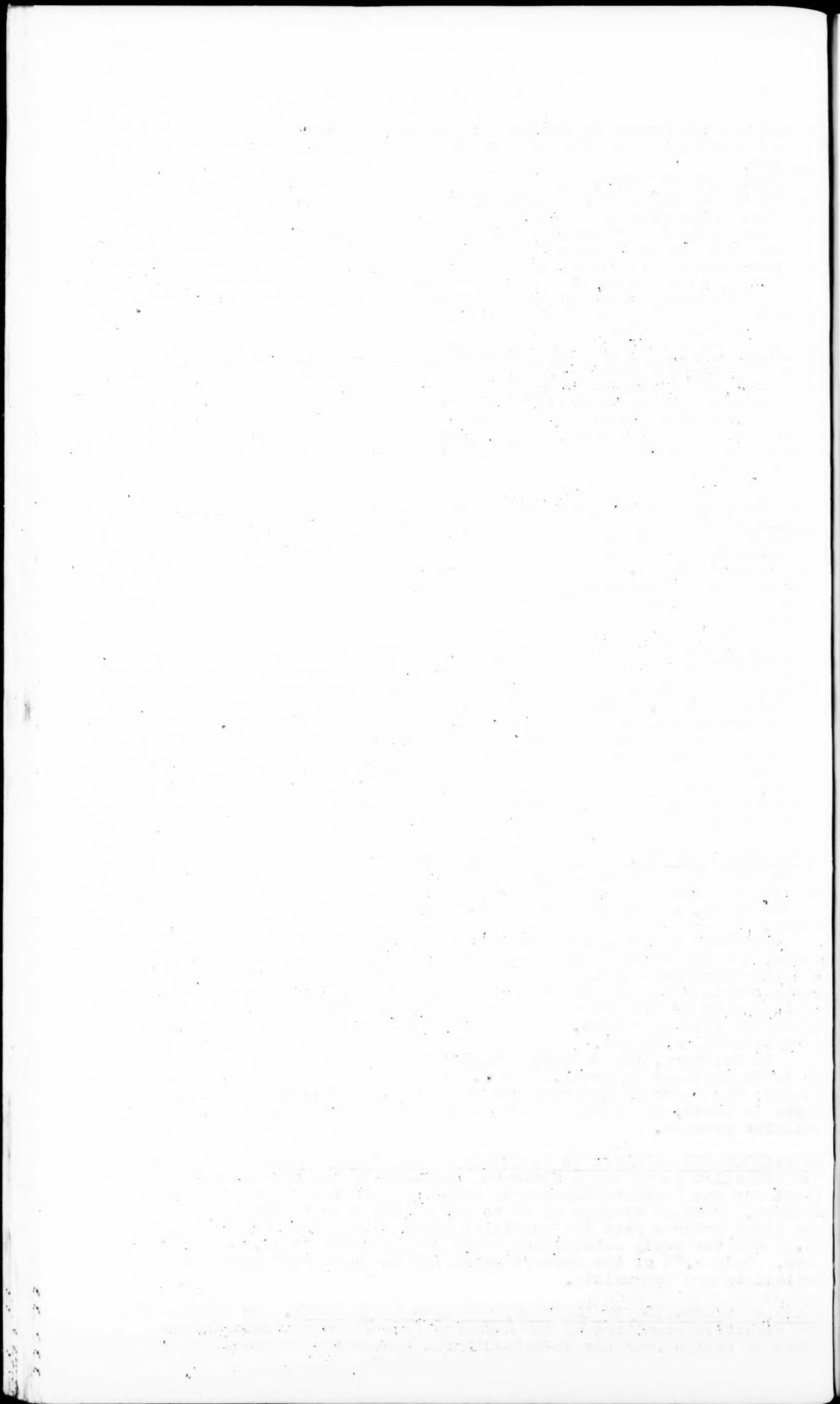
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN SALZBURG AND UPPER AUSTRIA. The following returns from the municipal elections held in Salzburg and Upper Austria on the 16th and 30th of October, in which 60 to 75% of the voters went to the polls, reveal a clear-cut victory for the Austrian People's party.

In Upper Austria, the People's party won 380 of the 439 mayoralty races, the Socialist party 49 and the Union of Independents 10. Nowhere did the Communists gain enough votes to elect a mayor. The People's party obtained 52% of the popular vote, the Socialists 28.4%, the Union of Independents 17% and the Communists 1.7%. These figures do not include the cities of Linz, Wels and Steyr, where municipal elections were held on October 9.

In Salzburg, the majority People's party won 1,036 out of a total of 1,736 legislative seats, or 58%. The Socialists obtained 516 seats, or 28%; the Union of Independents 186 seats, or 10.5%; and the Communists 14 seats, or 0.7%. The remaining votes were cast for minor splinter parties.

SOCIALISTS WIN MAJORITY IN ELECTIONS FOR AUSTRIAN CHAMBER OF LABOR. The Socialist party won a clear cut majority in the country-wide elections for the Austrian Chamber of Labor held on the 23rd and 24th of October. With an average of 60 to 65% of the voters going to the polls, the final returns gave the Socialist party 64.2%, the People's party 14.5% and the newly established Union of Independents 11.5% of the vote. Only 9.7% of the workers voted for the Leftist bloc of left-wing Socialists and Communists.

AUSTRIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR RESIGNS FROM WORLD GROUP. On October 27, the executive committee of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions voted to resign from the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions,



11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-5

according to an announcement released in Vienna. The Communist faction on the committee opposed the move by three dissenting votes. The committee also decided to accept an invitation to attend the founding congress of the new international of free trade unions. In his address to the committee, Johann Eeehm, President of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, remarked that labor was again faced with the deplorable situation where three divergent international labor groups were all vying for its allegiance. There was, however, a possibility that the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions might join the new international organization.

GENERAL WINTERTON TO SUCCEED GENERAL GALLOWAY. General Sir Alexander Galloway, British High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief in Austria, will be succeeded by his present deputy commander, Major General T.J. Winterton, on January 1, 1950, according to an official British announcement released in Vienna. As a result of the progressive transfer of authority to the Austrian government, the British element on the Allied Commission for Austria would be reduced considerably in strength, the announcement said.

RUSSIAN OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES CENSOR 2381 LETTERS IN 14 DAYS. Between September 26 and October 10, Soviet authorities in Austria censored 2381 letters containing critical remarks about life in the "People's Democracies", it was disclosed by American Occupation Forces in Austria. When, at a recent executive committee meeting of the Allied Council for Austria, General Desmond D. Balmer, who was then still in Austria and the U.S. Representative on the Council, demanded that these measures be discontinued immediately, the Soviet representative produced a single envelope bearing an alleged American censorship seal. After careful examination, General Balmer declared that the seal was counterfeit, and reiterated that American occupation authorities were not exercising any illegal censorship.

DISPLACED PERSONS MADE SUBJECT TO AUSTRIAN LAW. Austrian police authorities will no longer be required to submit criminal cases involving displaced persons to American legal officers for preliminary investigation, according to an announcement by the United States High Commissioner in Austria. However, those cases pertaining to Allied nationals or Allied property, and those relating to the illegal possession or use of firearms, continue to remain subject to U.S. legal jurisdiction. Heretofore, all Austrian police reports in the American zone involving non-Austrians had to be routed through U.S. legal authorities.

COMMEMORATIONS HONOR FALLEN AUSTRIAN RESISTANCE HEROES. On November 2, representatives of the Federal Government and of the Vienna Municipality placed commemorative wreaths at the foot of the monument erected in Vienna's Central Cemetery in honor of Austria's resistance fighters who gave their lives for their country's freedom. Similar commemorative ceremonies were held by the political parties for their own resistance dead.

TRYGVE LIE THANKS DR. FIGL FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE U.N. LEAGUE. The Secretary of the Austrian United Nations League recently presented Federal Chancellor Leopold Figl with a personal note from U.S. Secretary-General Trygve Lie, in which the latter thanked the Austrian Chancellor for his continuous efforts on behalf of the United Nations League and especially for his support of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

STATUS OF RESTITUTION PROCEEDINGS AS OF JULY 31, 1949. The Federal Ministry of Property Custody and Economic Planning recently released the following figures on the status of restitution cases as of July 31, 1949:

Of the 9,367 applications filed under the 1st Restitution Law, 413 were withdrawn or dropped, 5,227 were approved and 769 were rejected. On that date, 2,476 cases were being examined and 482 had not yet come up for consideration.

Of the 932 applications filed under the 2nd Restitution Law, 43 were withdrawn, 301 approved and 143 rejected. Another 330 cases were being investigated and 115 cases had not yet come up for consideration.

Of the 26,062 applications filed under the 3d Restitution Law, 3,113 were withdrawn or dropped, 5,479 approved and 2,258 rejected. 11,335 applications had not yet reached the judicial calendar, and 3,877 had been settled by amicable arrangement.

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is organized into several paragraphs, with some lines appearing as bold or indented. The overall quality is poor, with significant noise and low contrast.]

11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-6

GESTAPO LEADER SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS "HARSH CONFINEMENT". Othmar Trenker, former SS "Sturmabfuhrer" and a high-ranking official of the Vienna Gestapo, was recently sentenced to 5 years "harsh confinement" for his ill-treatment and torture of three Gestapo prisoners. His conviction followed testimony by several persons who witnessed the crimes.

NEW FEDERAL BANK-BILLS ISSUED IN AUSTRIA. On November 3, the Austrian National Bank issued a new 100-schilling federal currency note, as part of a new series of bank-bills now being placed into circulation. The new bill was designed by Professor Amadeus Dier and engraved by the copperplate-engraver Ruppert Franke. The old bills, nevertheless, will continue to remain in circulation.

1949 CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AT KAPRUN POWER STATION COMPLETED. Construction work on the "Tauern-Kraftwerk" (Kaprun Valley), the large hydro-electric power station in the Grossglockner area, will have to be discontinued soon because of threatening frost and the danger of avalanches. When completed, the Kaprun station will rank with the Dnepropetrovsk plant in the Ukraine as the largest of its kind in Europe. Some 160,000 tons of concrete were poured during this year's construction schedule on the project. The half-completed storage reservoir in the Limberg Valley now has a water level of about 98 feet, which means that already this winter it will contribute some 15 million kilowatts of electric power to the Austrian transmission network. Next winter, this figure is expected to increase to 60 million kilowatts, and, during the winter of 1951/52, to about 110 million kilowatts. After completion of the Tauern project, Austria's network of electric power will receive an additional 600 million kilowatts from this source, 400 millions of which during the winter months.

SATISFACTORY GRAIN HARVEST IN AUSTRIA. This year's Austrian harvest of bread cereals exceeded all previous provisions with a total crop of 719,089 tons, according to figures released by the Central Office of Statistics. Of these, 345,000 tons were wheat, 364,540 tons rye and 9,549 tons winter grain. The 1949 harvest exceeded by 92,000 tons the year's quota under the four-year agricultural plan. The yield from the current crop of bread cereals is about 162,000 tons greater than in 1948, which represents an increase of 20 percent.

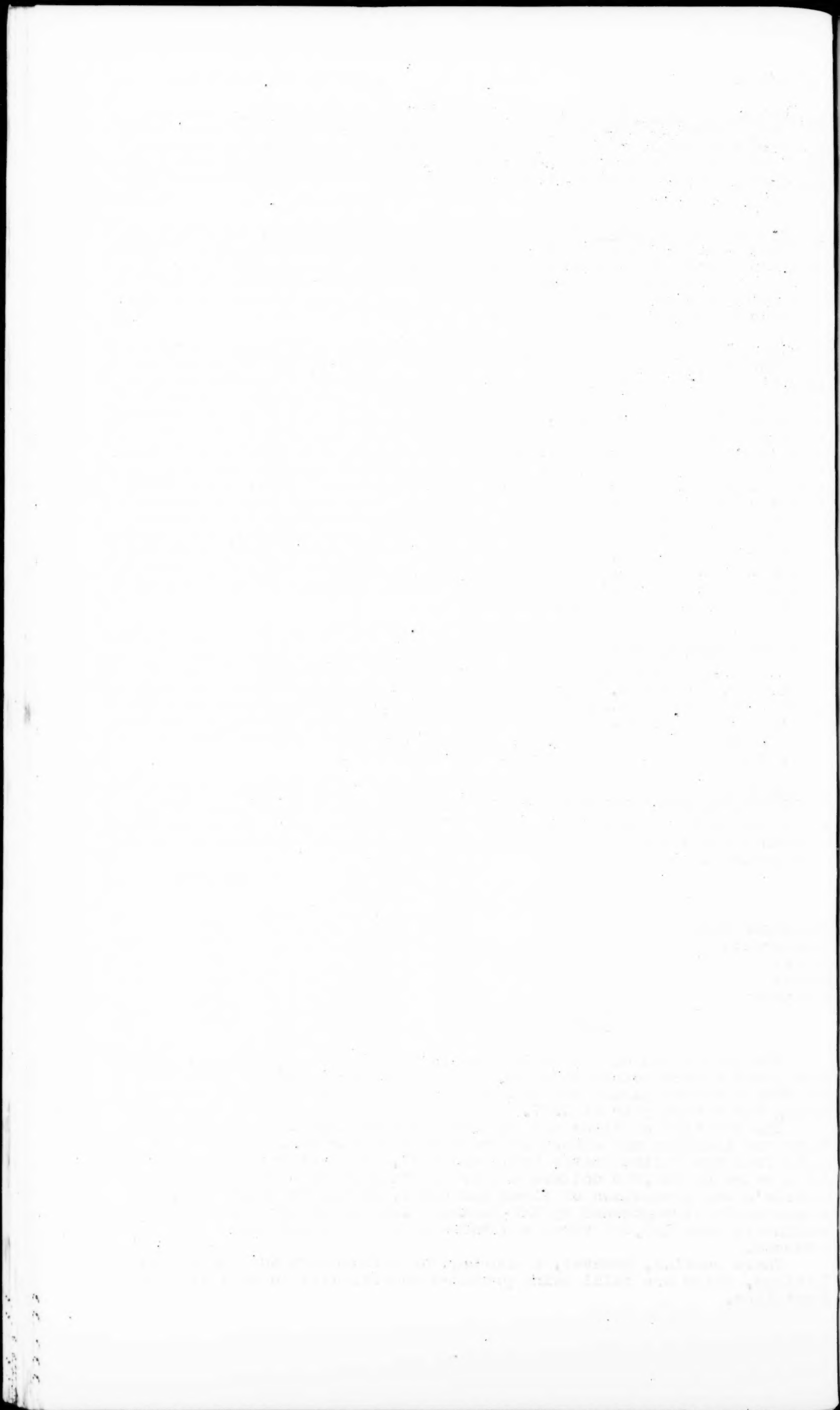
AUSTRIAN MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCTION DURING FIRST HALF OF 1949. Austria's motor vehicle industry has achieved notable production results during the first half of the current year. The following table lists the production figures for the first six months of 1949, as compared to the same period in 1948.

	First half of 1949	1948	Increase
Passenger cars	350	----	350
Motorcycles	5486	3451	2035
Trucks	652	281	371
Busses	177	35	142
Tractors	2356	1792	564
<u>Total:</u>	9021	5559	3462

The production of motors is also increasing satisfactorily. Sixty-nine percent more motors were made during the first half of 1949 than had been produced during the same period in 1948 and 71% more than during the entire year of 1937.

The shortage of tires had for long been an important problem, but today the industry has almost overcome this bottleneck. Current imports from the United States total about 20,000 tires and inner tubes for a value of 850,000 dollars and are sufficient to meet the demand. Austria's own production of tires and tubes, during the past year, was immeasurably strengthened by ERP-financed imports of raw materials and machinery; some 100,000 tires and tubes in 30 different sizes were produced.

There remains, however, a shortage of carburetors and electrical fittings, which are still being produced domestically in only limited quantities.



11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-7

AUSTRIAN EXPORTS OF MACHINERY TO SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE. During the past few months Austria's machine industry was able to obtain important export orders for the sale of machinery to Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania and Yugoslavia, thus raising the volume of exports which had been on the decline since the beginning of the year. Exports to southeastern Europe are still, however, far below their pre-war level. Present demands are primarily for pumps, Diesel motors, agricultural implements and construction machinery. These exports are being effected almost exclusively within the framework of barter agreements. But certain lines, such as the production of high-grade machine tools, wood processing machines and agricultural machinery, are being kept supplied with orders for months to come.

AUSTRIAN STEEL WORKS PRODUCE NEW TYPE OF STEEL. The United Austrian Iron and Steel Works in Linz recently began production of a so-called "pure iron" steel, which is refined by a new melting process. The new material, known as "ELPUR", is characterized by remarkable elasticity, greater resistance to corrosion and special magnetic properties. It will be used for pressure piping, ship superstructures, sheet metal stacks, armatures, as well as in the chemical industry and for electrical instruments.

LARGE-SCALE BRITISH ORDER FOR SHEET METAL RECEIVED BY "VOEST". The "Vereinigten Oesterreichischen Eisen- und Stahlwerke" (United Austrian Iron and Steel Works), in Linz, recently received a large-scale British order for heavy plate metal. The order amounts to about 25,000 tons and has a value of some 700,000 pounds sterling, which will be paid in British currency. The heavy sheet metal ordered is to be used primarily for shipbuilding and its production will keep the plate-rolling mill of the Linz works busy for about three months.

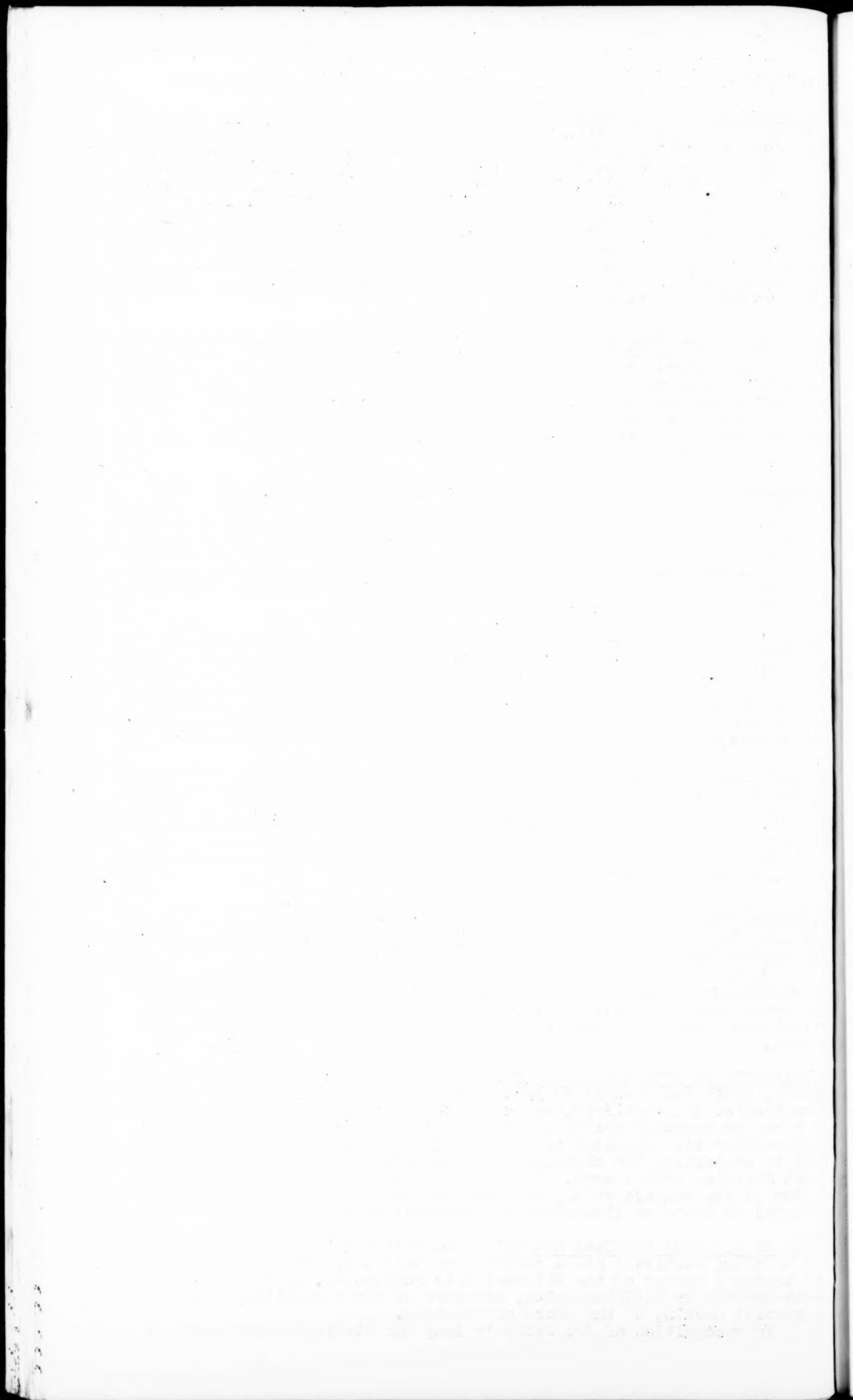
UPPER AUSTRIA EXTERMINATES POTATOE BEETLE PEST. The Upper Austrian Chamber of Agriculture recently reported that the state's farmers and agricultural authorities had succeeded in fully exterminating a widespread attack of potatoe beetles which was beginning to assume alarming proportions. The danger to the potatoe crop was warded off primarily by the use of carbon disulphide. Serious damage was thus prevented and the spread of the noxious beetles to the eastern provinces arrested.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN SEES AUSTRIAN ART TREASURES. The President and Mrs. Truman had a preview on November 6 of the great collection of art sent here by the Austrian Government which will open to the public on November 20. They spent 90 minutes inspecting the collection of paintings, armor plate and objets d'art in the National Gallerie in Washington. The President declared at his weekly press conference that he was very impressed by what he had seen.

PROFESSOR FINSTERER SELECTED MASTER OF SURGERY. Professor Dr. Hans Finsterer, worldfamed surgeon and professor of the University of Vienna was selected on November 11 by the International College of Surgeons for its highest honor, Master of Surgery. Professor Finsterer was cited by the Board of Regents for his work in abdominal surgery with the use of local anesthesia only. He has performed more than 20,000 major operations, among them 3,000 gastric resections (removal of part or all of the stomach) with his special method.

GRILLPARZER SOCIETY REVIVED IN VIENNA. The Grillparzer Society of Vienna, which was founded 60 years ago, has now been revived under the direction of Dr. Kurt Friedberger and Franz Theodor Csokor, according to a recent announcement by the distinguished literary society. The announcement also appealed to the Austrian people to take an active part in supporting the organisation's research and its promotion of the great Austrian poet's work. The society also intends to resume publication of its annuals which, for decades, had been a rich source of material on Austrian literature and cultural history.

HEAD OF SALZBURG FESTIVAL HONORED. Mr. Heinrich Puthon, President of the Salzburg Festivals and a resident of Salzburg, was recently elected an honorary member of the National Arts Foundation, according to an announcement by Carleton Smith, director of the Foundation, following a special meeting of the Board of Trustees. In recognition of Mr. Puthon's long and distinguished record at



11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-8

Salzburg, the Board passed a special resolution expressing "the gratitude of thousands of American musicians for the joy and inspiration given them every August in Salzburg."

Mr. Puthon founded the Festivals with Max Reinhardt in the twenties, and has been their head ever since. Among his collaborators at the Salzburg Festivals have been Arturo Toscanini, Richard Strauss, Bruno Walter, Wilhelm Furtwaengler, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, and scores of great artists from every country.

It was also announced that the National Arts Foundation will collaborate with Mr. Puthon and the Salzburg Festival Society in planning a world-wide Mozart celebration in 1951. Music lovers all over the world will be encouraged to make a pilgrimage to the City of Mozart's birth during that year's Festivals.

1949 SALZBURG FESTIVALS INCUR DEFICIT OF 1-1/2 MILLION SCHILLINGS. The cost of this year's Salzburg Festival amounted to 4 million schillings and was covered only partially by the income of 2.5 million schillings derived from the sale of admission tickets and radio broadcasting rights, according to an announcement by the Festival committee. Three and a half million schillings were spent for the actual performances and a half million for year-round operating costs. Forty percent of the deficit must be met by the Federal Government, and 20% each, by the City of Salzburg, the State of Salzburg and the Salzburg Tourist Association.

FORMER VIENNA OPERA STAR DIES HERE. Margit Bokor, former lyric soprano of the Vienna State Opera died in New York on November 9 at the age of forty-four. She was famous for her performance in "Fidelio" and as Octavian in the "Rosenkavalier". A native of Hungary, Mme. Bokor appeared in Vienna, Berlin and Dresden, as well as at the Salzburg Festivals and in Covent Garden. Richard Strauss was said to have composed a special role for her in his opera "Arabella". After the Nazis annexed Austria, Mme. Bokor went to Brazil and later came to the United States in 1939. She was very soon engaged by many opera companies and received excellent press reviews for her appearances at the Metropolitan, Chicago and San Francisco operas.

1950 CONGRESS OF "JEUNESSES MUSICALES" TO BE HELD IN VIENNA. Dr. Egon H. Seefehler, general secretary of the Vienna Concert Hall Society, was elected president of "Jeunesses Musicales" for the 1949/50 term, at the organization's yearly congress recently held in Scheveningen, the Netherlands. It was also decided that next year's congress of the international organization of young music lovers would be held in Vienna during Easter. Speakers at the congress noted with satisfaction the growing interest in music on the part of European youth. The Austrian section of "Jeunesses Musicales" has a notable membership, which exerted considerable influence on the program selections for the 1949/50 concert season.

MODERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION OPENS LIBRARY OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC. The Austrian section of the International Association of Modern Music opened a library of contemporary music in the Music Society Building on October 1. The library has one thousand volumes of modern music on hand at the present time and is open to the Association's members and other persons interested in contemporary music.

AUSTRIA'S LARGEST MOTION PICTURE THEATER BEING BUILT IN VIENNA. A large motion picture theater is now in construction in one of the former market buildings of the municipality of Vienna, near the city's town hall. The movie house, which is to have a seating capacity of more than 1200, will be opened on New Year's Eve 1949.

The architecture of the new theater will be novel for Austria, inasmuch as almost the entire two-story high front will be encased in glass and will have, at the level of third floor, a billboard panel running the entire length of the facade. This panel will have room for 14 large (10 by 16 feet) posters. From an 82-foot high flag pole, to the right of the marquee, will fly the flags of the production company, and of the country in which the production currently being shown was filmed.

NEW AUSTRIAN FILMS HAILED BY AUSTRIAN PRESS. Three new Austrian films, which opened in Vienna during the last month, are being greeted with great enthusiasm by the entire Austrian press. Film critics were

[Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-9

unanimous in seeing in the new films, evidence of a notable departure from the Austrian film industry's productions during the first post-war years.

The first of these films, "Bergkristall" (Mountain Crystal), is based on the novel of the same name by the well-known Austrian writer, Adalbert Stifter. The story is set in the Tyrolean mountains. Except for three professional actors, the entire cast consists of local farmers and lumberjacks.

The second is a film version of "Vagabunden" (Vagabonds), a play by Juliane Kay which has enjoyed many successful years on the Vienna stage. Paula Wessely and Attila Hoerbiger play the leading roles. Film critics gave particular praise to the subtle and impressive performance of the great Austrian actress.

The third recently-released film is a full-length feature entitled "Matthäus Passion" (The Passion According to St. Matthew). The performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's great Passion by the Vienna Philharmonic under the baton of Herbert Karajan, coupled with Passion scenes as recreated from the Bible by the world's greatest painters and sculptors throughout the centuries, represents a novel approach to the filming of great works of music. The solo parts are sung by leading members of the Vienna State Opera, and the narrator is the well-known Austrian actor, Raoul M. Aslan.

FATHER LOMBARDI IN VIENNA. Father F. Lombardi, S.J., world-famous sermonist and clergyman, recently arrived in Vienna on his continental preaching tour summoning the people of Europe to a "Crusade of Love". In the Austrian capital, where he addressed tens of thousands of eager listeners, the multitude of those who wanted to hear him was so great, that his sermons had to be carried over loudspeakers in many churches and concert halls.

VALUABLE JEWISH RELIC DONATED TO VIENNA SYNAGOGUE. A handwritten scroll of the Torah containing the five Books of Moses was recently donated to the Jewish community of Vienna by Emil Gluecker, a native of Vienna who emigrated to the United States in 1930. The scroll, which is of one the world's most valuable Hebrew relics, was presented to the Jews of Vienna by army chaplain Oscar M. Lifshutz in a ceremony at the Seitenstaetten Temple.

RECORD TOURIST SEASON IN BADGASTEIN. The well-known health resort of Badgastein, in the State of Salzburg, had a record tourist season this summer, according to the figures just released by the resort administration of this famous radioactive spa. Some of the 24,000 visitors, which included 2,400 Americans, came to use the thermal springs and the others to attend the Salzburg Festivals. The city administration is now making preparations for the winter season. A cableway leading to the "Stubener Kogel" (7,200 ft.) has already been built, and several international ski races are being planned.

FIRST FULLY AUTOMATIC CABLE RAILWAY ON ARLBERG. The world's first fully automatic cable railway has been placed into operation between Lech and Oberlech am Arlberg. The cable cars, which require no operating personnel, can cover an altitude difference of 500 meters (about 1600 feet) in 4 minutes. The line is equipped with mechanical devices for monitoring its operation and for automatically summoning personnel in the event of emergency.

LAST 3 AMERICAN STREETCARS ARRIVE IN VIENNA. The last three of the 45 American streetcars purchased by the Vienna municipal administration last fall arrived in Vienna on October 26. Two have already been re-converted to meet the technical requirements of the city's streetcar system and have made their trial run, although it is not expected that the newly-acquired cars will be placed into regular service before the end of the year.

"AIR FRANCE" ESTABLISHES REGULAR VIENNA-PARIS FLIGHTS. On October 26, "Air France" established regular semi-weekly flights from Vienna to Paris, with departure from Vienna every Wednesday (via Basel) and every Saturday (via Munich). Four-motor Languedoc planes will be used on the winter flight schedules.

There is a large number of people who are interested in the study of the history of the United States.

The first of these is the study of the early history of the United States, from the time of the first settlement to the time of the American Revolution. This is a very interesting study, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States. It is a study which is of great interest to the people of the United States, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States.

The second of these is the study of the history of the United States from the time of the American Revolution to the present. This is a study which is of great interest to the people of the United States, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States.

The third of these is the study of the history of the United States from the time of the American Revolution to the present. This is a study which is of great interest to the people of the United States, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States.

The fourth of these is the study of the history of the United States from the time of the American Revolution to the present. This is a study which is of great interest to the people of the United States, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States.

The fifth of these is the study of the history of the United States from the time of the American Revolution to the present. This is a study which is of great interest to the people of the United States, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States.

The sixth of these is the study of the history of the United States from the time of the American Revolution to the present. This is a study which is of great interest to the people of the United States, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States.

The seventh of these is the study of the history of the United States from the time of the American Revolution to the present. This is a study which is of great interest to the people of the United States, and it is one which is of great importance to the people of the United States.

11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-10

FIRST REGULAR AIR FREIGHT SERVICE FROM VIENNA ESTABLISHED. Early in November, Pan American Airways established the first regularly-scheduled air freight service from Vienna to New York, with regular flights leaving the Austrian capital every Wednesday. These are the first air freight facilities available in Austria. For these flights, Pan American is using DC-4 planes with a maximum load capacity of 13,200 lbs. The freight route, like the passenger route, includes scheduled stops at Frankfurt, Brussels, London, Shannon and Gander.

U.S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION APPROVES INSTITUTE OF WORLD TRADE FOR STUDY UNDER G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS. The Institute for World Trade, in Vienna, was added to the list of Austrian institutes of higher learning approved for American war veterans studying abroad under the G.I. Bill of Rights, according to a communication by the Veterans Administration in Washington.

The Vienna Institute for World Trade, which celebrated its semi-centennial last year, specializes in the formal training and education of prospective businessmen and business teachers. Graduation from the school requires four years of study, at the end of which students must submit a thesis and take final examinations in the following five subjects: general and specific economic management theory, political economy, law, one foreign language and one elective field of study, such as, for example, geography or merchandising.

The Veterans Administration previously had approved the following other institutes of higher learning for study in Austria under the G.I. Bill of Rights: the University of Vienna, the Leopold-Franzens University in Innsbruck, the Karl-Franzens University in Salzburg, and the State Academy of Music and Art in Vienna.

Approval of the Vienna College of Fine Arts, the Vienna Academy of Applied Arts and the Mozarteum in Salzburg is still pending.

AMERICAN SEMINAR AT LEOPOLDSKRON CASTLE ATTRACTS FOREIGN STUDENTS. The American seminar held at Leopoldskron castle near Salzburg, between October 18 and November 17, attracted 35 students from Austria, Germany, France and Italy. The month-long seminar dealt with general subjects, the evening sessions being devoted to American folk dances, record concerts and theatrical performances.

The winter course at Leopoldskron will be continued in March with lectures covering American sociological problems. In April, the seminar will discuss American literature and history, and the May and June sessions will be devoted to American music and the American theatre, respectively.

SPECIAL COURSES AT THE AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND ART. Every semester, Clemens Kraus will give a special practical course in "The Art of Conducting" at the Academy of Music and Art in Vienna, which will be accessible to advanced conducting students, non-enrolled persons, as well as to professional conductors who wish to continue their studies. The famous violinist Vasa Prihoda has been prevailed upon to join the teaching staff of the Academy next year.

WORLD BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE TO BE HELD IN UPPER AUSTRIA IN 1951. The World Boy Scout Jamboree scheduled for the summer of 1951 will be held near Bad Ischl in Upper Austria. The international gathering is expected to attract many thousands of scouts from all over the world.

NEW AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN VIENNA ALMOST COMPLETED. Reconstruction and renovation work on the former War Ministry building on the Stubenring has been progressing so satisfactorily that the huge "Government Palace", which will house four ministries, is expected to be completed in the coming months. The Ministry of Trade will probably be able to move from its present temporary quarters into the new building next spring. It is not yet known which other three ministries will also move into the new building. The relatively high cost of repairing and renovating the building will be more than compensated by the consolidation of four ministries under one roof which will save the state several million schillings yearly.

PRICE OF AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPERS INCREASED. An increase in the price of Vienna daily newspapers from 35 to 40 groschen, and that of provincial papers from 40 to 45 groschen, effective November 1, was announced by the Association of Austrian Newspaper Publishers. The old prices fixed in September 1947 had not been raised in spite of increased labor and

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is organized into several paragraphs, with some lines appearing as bold or indented. No specific content can be transcribed.]

11/21/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-11

material costs. However, the discrepancy between production costs and sale's prices had reached such proportions that the papers no longer could meet the deficit.

FORMER U. S. ZONE COMMANDER MARRIES AUSTRIAN. Major General Harry S. Collins, former Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Zone in Austria, and Miss Irene Gehmacher, of Salzburg, were recently married in California. During the early post-war years Miss Gehmacher was employed by the U. S. Zone Command in Salzburg as legal adviser on Austrian affairs. General Collins and his young bride will make their home at Fort Lewis, Washington.

AMERICAN WELFARE OFFICIAL DECORATED WITH MALTESE CROSS. Dr. Henry Amiel, head of the Vienna office of the National Catholic Welfare Conference's War Relief Services, was decorated with the Maltese cross for his outstanding services in the field of social welfare. Dr. Amiel has been head of the Austrian office of the American welfare organization for the past year.

The Information Department of the Austrian Consulate General in New York announces the publication of

" A U S T R I A "

A SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FIGURES

This illustrated handbook will contain useful information on the following subjects:

GEOGRAPHY (Areas; Boundaries; Topography; Climate; Population; The Federal States).

HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT (Brief Historical Outline; Political Development since 1945; Form of Government).

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS (Education; Science and Technical Achievements; Music; Literature and Theater; Architecture; Painting and Sculpture).

ECONOMY (Agriculture; Forestry; Hydroelectric Power; Mining; Manufacturing; Foreign Trade; European Recovery Program in Austria; Finance; Transportation; Social Legislation).

SOME BASIC FIGURES.

The 80 page booklet may be obtained, free of charge, by writing to: Austrian Consulate General, Information Department, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

READERS ARE INVITED TO REPRINT OR QUOTE ANY MATERIAL FROM
AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

A circular postmark from New York, dated 1891. The text "NEW YORK" is curved along the bottom, and "1891" is curved along the top. In the center, there is a small horizontal line and some faint, illegible markings.